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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, for the good Earth out of which sustenance comes. Thank You for the fertile fields, for the productive seeds, for the Sun and the rain, for the strength for our tasks, and for the harvest that comes from our labors.

Sustain our Senators today in their legislative work of sowing and reaping. May they faithfully plant and water the seeds of truth in our laws. Help them to cultivate the soil of debate with kind words and courteous actions. Lord, whatever they do in word or deed, may they do all in and for Your honor.

Continue to sustain our military men and women who sacrifice daily for freedom.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we are opening with a period of morning business to allow Senators to make statements. At 3 this afternoon we will begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Chairman WARNER will be here at 3 to begin debate on this important measure. Later this afternoon, following the opening remarks of the ranking member, we expect our first amendment to be offered. Although we have stated that no votes will occur today, we hope to debate an amendment and then set a vote at a time certain tomorrow morning.

Tomorrow morning we have set aside another period of morning business. Following that time, we will return to the Defense bill with the expectation of a rollcall vote prior to the policy meetings.

I remind my colleagues that we have scheduled our official Chamber photograph for 2:15 tomorrow afternoon, and Senators should be seated at their desks at that time.

Following the photograph, we have debate on the nomination of Richard Stickler to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. A cloture vote will occur on that nomination around 3:30 or so on Tuesday.

I also announce that the House will take action on the supplemental appropriations conference report Tuesday, and, therefore, we expect to begin consideration of that measure on Tuesday as well. We will try to reach an agreement for debate and a time certain for a vote on that emergency spending bill.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today marks an extraordinary—extraordinary—milestone in the history of the Senate and in the life of one of our most distinguished colleagues.

Today, ROBERT C. BYRD, the senior Senator from West Virginia, becomes

the longest serving Senator in the history of the United States.

Today, he will have served 17,327 days in office, and outlasted 1,885 Senators who have graced this Chamber since 1789. He has cast more votes than any other Senator. And this year, Senator BYRD is running for an unprecedented ninth term.

Our distinguished colleague has amassed an astonishing record of service, and it is my privilege and honor to pay tribute to the Dean of the Senate—one of the greatest orators in the grand tradition of this august institution.

Senator BYRD won his first election to the Senate back in 1958. Lyndon Johnson was the majority leader. Dwight Eisenhower was President. And the Soviets had won the space race with the launch of Sputnik.

Senator BYRD joined the Appropriations Committee and quickly got to work learning the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure.

Senator BYRD has been called a walking encyclopedia of Congress. Indeed, in his career he has authored a four-volume history of the U.S. Senate.

In 1971, Senator BYRD was chosen Senate Democratic whip. In 1977, he was elected Democratic leader, a position held for six consecutive terms.

He led the Senate as majority leader for 6 years, and served as minority leader for another 6.

Senator BYRD has twice been elected President pro tempore.

All told, ROBERT C. BYRD has held more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Senator in history.

But even having attained this extraordinary influence, Senator BYRD has never forgotten where he came from or who sent him here.

From early on in his career, he demonstrated his deep commitment to the people of West Virginia. His loyalty, closeness, and respect have been rewarded. Senator BYRD has won overwhelming majorities in each of his reelection campaigns, winning with 78 percent in 2000.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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